TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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9/12/88

Office of Information
and Public Affairs
50 F Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001
(202) 639-2555

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, September 8, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended September 3, totaled 20.3 billion ton-miles, up 2.6 percent from the 19.8 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 35 weeks of 1988 was an estimated 668.1 billion ton-miles carried, up 7.1 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended September 3 totaled 449,978, highest since the week ended October 3, 1981. The total was up 2.1 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 2.5 percent above the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 1.6 percent in the East, and 2.6 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 12 of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Coal loadings increased by 5,614 cars (4.3 percent); loadings of metallic ores were up 1,513 cars (7.8 percent); but grain was down 5,996 cars (18.8 percent). Sixteen of the 20 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

Piggyback traffic for the week ended August 27 totaled 116,742 trailers and/or containers, up 6.2 percent from the comparable week of 1987.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 34 weeks of the year was 3,711,951 trailers and/or containers, up 5.7 percent from 1987.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 9/3/88:

	Loadings in Week ended September 3, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	25,957	D	5,996	18.8	I	727	2.9
Other farm products	2,319	D	483	17.2	I	68	3.0
Metallic ores	20,791	I	1,513	7.8	I	3,394	19.5
Coal	134,865	I	5,614	4.3	I	2,122	1.6
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	19,200	I	1,446	8.1	D	320	1.6
Nonmetallic minerals	11,106	I	345	3.2	D	100	0.9
Grain mill products	11,731	I	726	6.6	I	758	6.9
Food and kindred products	11,209	I	362	3.3	I	13	0.1
Primary forest products	10,285	D	435	4.1	I	414	4.2
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,307	D	1,177	13.9	D	26	0.4
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,687	D	206	1.6	I	440	3.6
Chemicals and allied products	28,297	I	509	1.8	I	577	2.1
Petroleum products	5,230	D	126	2.4	D	233	4.3
Stone, clay and glass products	11,527	D	243	2.1	I	383	3.4
Coke	5,877	I	985	20.1	I	95	1.6
Metals and products	11,071	I	605	5.8	I	344	3.2
Motor vehicles and equipment	19,470	I	1,449	8.0	I	243	1.3
Waste and scrap materials	10,230	I	740	7.8	I	374	3.8
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,586	D	770	22.9	I	243	10.4
All other carloads	88,233	I	4,292	5.1	I	1,611	1.9
Total Cars Loaded	449,978	I	9,150	2.1	I	11,127	2.5
Corresponding week of 1987	440,828						

	1988	1987	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (35 weeks)	14,781,481	14,033,272	I	5.3

Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):

34 weeks ended August 27	647.8	604.1	I	7.2
Week ended September 3	20.3	19.8	I	2.6
35 Weeks cumulative	668.1	623.8	I	7.1

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